

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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----- 023454

R 220700Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

SECSTATE WASHDC 2986

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJECT: CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT

1. FRED CLARK, CHIEF ENGINEER OF ATMOSPHERICS INC. CAME TO CONGEN JULY 21 TO FILL US IN ON PROGRESS OF CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM SO FAR. CLARK SAID AIRCRAFT IS WORKING DAILY OVER 25 SQUARE MILE RESERVOIR CATCHMENT AREA NORTHWEST OF MADRAS WITH QUITE SUCCESSFUL RESULTS. FOLLOWING SEEDING, WATER LEVEL IN POONDI RESERVOIR, FIRST FEEDER RESERVOIR UPSTREAM FROM MAIN RED HILLS RESERVOIR, HAD RISEN SEVENTEEN INCHES IN PAST TWO DAYS.

2. CLOUD SEEDERS APPEAR TO BE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDING TAKING CREDIT FOR EVERY DROP OF RAIN THAT FALLS, AND CAN POINT WITH WHAT SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERABLE ACCURACY TO PRECIPITATION WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE EXPECTED TIME LIMITS FROM STORMS THEY HAVE SEEDED.

3. TAMIL NADU OFFICIALS HAVE OBSERVED OPERATIONS IN DETAIL, AND APPEAR WELL SATISFIED. CLARK SAID HE HAD PLEASANT INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF SECRETARY JULY 21. PUBLIC REACTION REMAINS VERY FAVORABLE. SOME VERNACULAR PAPERS HAVE DEVOTED HALF OF

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ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEEDING AIRCRAFT AND

PERSONNEL, AND ENGLISH PHOTOGRAPHER AND WRITER FOR INDIAN EXPRESS HAS PUBLISHED LONGISH INTERVIEW WITH CLARK AND PILOT NORRIS VEVERKA RESPONDING TO SCEPTICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT CLOUD SEEDING TECHNIQUES.

4. PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM PROBLEM SOLVING PRACTICAL PERSONALITY OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY K. CHOCKALINGAM. CLARK SAID HE HAD TO STOP USING RADAR AT METEOROLOGICAL STATION AT AIRPORT BECAUSE IT WAS AS MUCH AS TWENTY PERCENT INACCURATE, AND NOT SENSITIVE ENOUGH. AIRPORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICIALS, HE SAID, REACTED A BIT DEFENSIVELY AT FIRST, BUT HIS POINT WAS MADE WHEN CHOCKALINGAM ACCOMPANIED HIM ON DAY WHEN AIRPORT RADAR HAD NOT YET REGISTERED A RAIN STORM THAT COULD BE VISUALLY OBSERVED OUTSIDE. WHEN IT APPEARED THAT THERE MIGHT BE THE USUAL LONG DELAYS IN OBTAINING A LICENSE FROM MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS TO SET UP ATMOSPHERICS OWN RADAR IMPORTED FROM U.S., CHOCKALINGAM TOLD CLARK TO SET IT UP AT THE FLYING CLUB AND START USING IT ANYWAY, AND TOOK THE NEXT PLANE TO DELHI WHERE HE ARRANGED A TEMPORARY CLEARANCE IN ONE DAY WITHOUT FURTHER ADO.
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